

Sanguisorba menziesii Rydb.

Menzies' burnet
Rosaceae (Rose Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G3G4S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1969): This perennial herb is freely rhizomatous. The large leaf blades are up to 8 in. (2.5 dm) long, with 9-15 ovate to oblong leaflets that are $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 in. (2-5 cm) long and coarsely serrate. The flower spikes are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. (1.5-7 cm) long and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (10-13 mm) wide. The flowers are reddish-purple and the sepals are 1/8 in. (2.5-3 mm) long. The 4 strongly club-shaped stamens have flattened filaments that are usually about twice as long as the sepals or slightly longer. The fruiting floral cup is wing-margined and pubescent.

Identification Tips: *Sanguisorba menziesii* is taxonomically distinct, but is similar to *S. officinalis* and *S. sitchensis*. *S. menziesii* is freely rhizomatous, with $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. (1.5-7 cm) long spikes, and reddish-purple flowers with filaments about twice as long as the sepals or longer. In contrast, *S. officinalis* has a thick short rootstock, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in. (1-2.5cm) long spikes, maroon to deep maroon purple flowers, and filaments that are slightly shorter to slightly longer than the sepals. It also has fused leaflet-like stipules, which *S. menziesii* does not have. *S. sitchensis* is freely rhizomatous, with 1-1/8 to 3-1/8 in. (3-8 cm) long spikes, and filaments that are 3 times as long as the sepals and pinkish or purplish flowers.

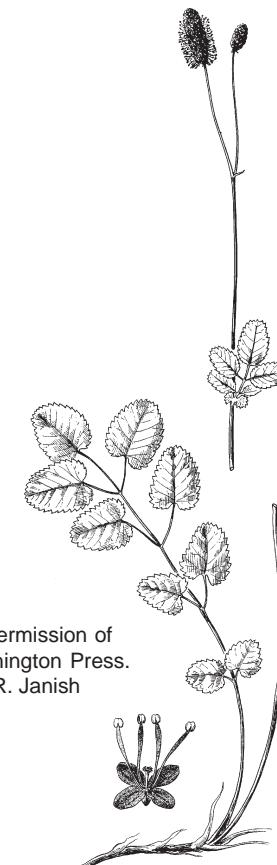
Phenology: In Washington the taxon was observed flowering and fruiting in August.

Range: This species is known from Alaska, B.C., and Washington. In Washington it has been found in Clallam and Grays Harbor counties

Habitat: This species has been observed in Washington at elevations of up to 3100 feet (944 m). It has been found in coastal bogs on the Olympic peninsula in moist soil. It is associated with sedges (*Carex* spp.).

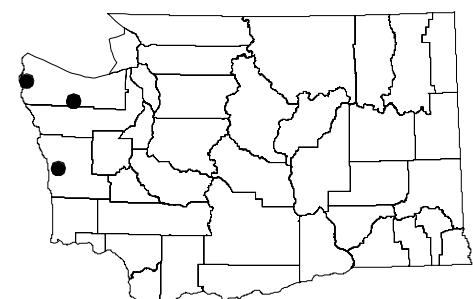
Sanguisorba menziesii

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Known distribution
of *Sanguisorba menziesii*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Ecology: *Sanguisorba menziesii* is found scattered within the periphery of bogs on flat land, and in bogs with standing water.

State Status Comments: In Washington this species is only known from less than 5 occurrences. Its association with bogs and wetlands also contributes to its state status.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed within appropriate habitats.

Threats and Management Concerns: Primary threats to this species and its rare and fragile habitat are timber harvest activities in and around the bogs, herbicides, road construction, hydrologic alteration, and recreation.

Comments: This species may occur in bogs throughout the Olympic peninsula, but blooms later than most other bog species, and so may be overlooked.

References:

- Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson.
1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.